

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2018

Ennis: 3rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Another stellar showing from last year's winner. Top ranking sites in Ennis included all approach roads and both Parnell Street and O'Connell Street – the latter was exceptionally good with regard to litter. The general environs of Sluice Gates / Mill Bridge / Riverwalk was excellent – it is clearly a very well respected and cared for environment. The Car Park at Dunnes Stores (street level) wasn't just clear of litter but also enhanced with attractive landscaping. There were Tidy Towns-sponsored notices on various 'vacant' properties (e.g. Parnell Street) – this certainly helps take the bare and neglected look off such buildings.

R458 Approach from Gort: Grade A. The area surveyed was from Liffey Mills and Ballymaley Business Park to the town centre. There was a virtual absence of litter along this stretch of road which passes through a mix of housing and businesses. The grass verges had recently been cut. The overall impression created was a good one.

Golf Links Approach Road: Grade A. A well presented road with plenty of mature trees throughout. All appeared in very good order and there wasn't any visible litter.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. O'Connell Street scored very well with regard to litter. It is a very well presented environment with regard to streetscape and paving. There were some lovely 'olde' style buildings throughout. The area was also enhanced by some colourful hanging baskets and a few buskers added to the atmosphere. There was an absence of litter throughout.

Car Park at Dunnes Stores: Grade A. A 'pay & display' car park - the street level of this car park was surveyed. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition. There were several separate planted / grass areas and they were very well maintained, harbouring no litter. The trolley bays and entrance to Dunnes Stores were all clear of litter –this was an excellent sitethroughout..

Parnell Street: Grade A. A narrow, pedestrianised street with some nicely presented shop fronts. Some of the vacant properties have 'Tidy Towns' sponsored notices - this helps take away the 'bare look' of the premises. There was attractive paving underfoot, including naming of laneways off Parnell Street - a lovely feature. Parnell Street scored very well with regard to litter.

Clonroad Business Park: Grade B. The overall impression of this business park was somewhat unkempt. The road surface was potholed and uneven (except for the parking relating to Enable Ireland) There was a variety of litter at the base of the low lying shrubbery and also more to the rear of the business park.

Sluice Gates / Mill Bridge / Riverwalk: Grade A. The area surveyed was from the parking area at Wood Quay to Mill Bridge and Sluice Gates. The building at Mill Bridge presented very well and there were plenty of colourful hanging baskets along the Bridge. The Sluice Gates / Mill Bridge environs was in very good order with regard to litter. The riverwalk / pathway leading to Wood Quay had some seating and life-belts - all were in good condition. There were some occasional incidents of dog fouling and cigarette butts (mostly at the seating areas) - overall, a top ranking site.

Cahercalla Estate: Grade B. The residential area included an extensive grassy area to the front and a series of interconnecting roads, with some separate grass areas. The large grass area to the front was excellent with regard to litter. Much of the remainder of the area was very good but it was impossible to ignore the 'white goods' (washing machines) in one grass area. There was also some food related litter.

Ennis GAA: Grade A. The area directly outside the grounds and the car parking area within were included in the survey. All appeared in very good order and well maintained. There was a complete absence of litter in the area surveyed.

N18 / M18 Limerick – Ennis Link Road: Grade A. The overall impression created along this road was a very positive one. It was fresh and clean in appearance. There didn't appear to be any visible litter.